

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
February 12, 2013**

Voting Members

Tiffany Gee (Chair)

Campbell Graeb

Allison Lazare (Vice Chair)

Ann F. Lewis

John Mertens

Chevy Chase Land Company

Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

United Educators Insurance

Friendship Heights Village

Friendship Heights Village

Non-voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher

-Representing DOT Director

MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services

TMD Staff

Nakengi Byrd

Jim Carlson

Sheila Wilson

MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services

MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services

MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services

Absent

Aurelio Baca-Asher

James Calderwood

Joe Dixon

Capt. David Falcinelli

Kenneth Hartman

Cobey R. Kuff

Allison Lazare (Vice Chair)

R. Mallory Starr

The JBG Companies

Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers

GEICO

Montgomery County Police

B-CC Services Center

Wisconsin Place

United Educators Insurance

Somerset House Management Association

Guests

Barbara Condos

Town of Somerset

Abbreviations:

TMP = Traffic Mitigation Plan

Items 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Minutes Review/Chair Comments: Chair **Tiffany Gee** called the meeting to order and members and guests introduced themselves. The vote on January's minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum. **Ms. Gee** welcomed soon-to-be new member **Barbara Condos** from the Town of Somerset to the Committee. **Ms. Condos'** nomination will be voted on by Council later on this date.

Jim Carlson announced that, in connection with January's briefing by **Richard Yates** of the Little Falls Watershed Alliance, he had spoken to **Christopher Moore**, Metro's Superintendent for Plant Maintenance, regarding the procurement of lids for the bus station trash receptacles. **Mr. Moore** said a work order had been submitted and that the lids would be installed as requested. **Mr. Carlson** reiterated the County's requirement that the TMD Advisory Committee can intervene with regard to trash clean up at the bus

terminal but not on Friendship Heights Boulevard, as **Mr. Yates** had requested during January's meeting, because the mission and reach of the Committee is limited to matters dealing with transit and transportation.

Item 4 – FY14 Budget Priorities: **Mr. Carlson** explained that the Committee chair's meeting with **County Executive Leggett** will be held in the County Executive's board room. No date had been set, but will likely be in March.

Sandra Brecher suggested some changes to the budget priorities document:

- Alter the heading under 1. Improve Transit Service; make the language clearer; the present phrase, 'to reflect the Committee's vested interest' should be more specific terms in regard to transit related operations.
- The second bullet point, 'Study methods of improving bus service with the application of new technologies' has been done – since GIS systems are already in place, language should reflect better use of existing navigational technologies and data derived from them. Also stress that buses should receive priority on roads.
- Heading 4. Provide Adequate Funding to Staff and Operate the TRiPS Commuter Store should differentiate between staff funding for the TRiPS store and staff dedicated to the TMD in general.

Item 5 – Updates: **Ms. Brecher** announced a traffic signal prioritization pilot study to determine if bus running time will be improved by manipulating signals at three intersections on MD 355 for the Route 46 Ride On bus. She said this pilot is a first step in providing research for a Rapid Transit Vehicle system. Other announcements:

- On January 13 selected Ride On buses were rerouted to improve service to more areas in and new service in the Park Potomac area. Tom-Tom devices are being used to train drivers.
- Remodeling of the Bethesda Metro Station and bus bays is planned to begin in spring 2013; bus bays to be relocated during construction.
- Ride On ridership was down in 2012 from 2011.
- The County is recruiting new Ride On bus operators.
- The Youth Cruiser pass is now available on SmarTrip.
- There will be a hearing today at 2 pm regarding the State House bill requiring mandatory bike helmets for all bike riders in Maryland. The bill, if passed, may undermine the County's bikeshare efforts since many bikeshare users are not going to be carrying helmets with them; and first time users may not own helmets at all. Current County law allows users over 16 to ride without a helmet. The County Executive has not taken a position on the issue. Police enforcement only with a warning – no fines.

Item 6 –Traffic Mitigation Plan Annual Reports: **Mr. Carlson** explained that the County Code requires employers located inside Transportation Management Districts with 25 or more employees to submit a Traffic Mitigation Plan (TMP) to the County plus an Annual Report thereafter, detailing the company's efforts in fulfilling its mitigation requirements during the previous year. Referring to circle five of the meeting packet, **Mr. Carlson** explained that employers must fulfill certain mandatory elements:

- Provide a contact person to act as a liaison between the organization and the County.
- Participate in the Annual Commuter Survey, with a 'good faith' effort to achieve 80 percent return rate.
- Have a permanent transit information display that provides information to employees regarding transit and other alternative commuting options.
- Post and distribute transit and alternative commute information to employees.
- Provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information and the regional Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program.

- Host Commuter Information Day events – generally two hour lunchtime events on site for CSS staff to reach out to employees.

The Committee's vote to recommended approval of TMP Annual Reports for CapitalSource Finance and M&T Insurance was tabled due to lack of quorum.

Mr. Carlson said M&T Insurance had fallen below the 25 employee threshold for submitting a mandatory annual report; therefore, it is considered a voluntary report. The County encourages voluntary plans whenever possible.

Ms. Brecher clarified that the TMP law reads 25 or more employees on the largest shift.

Item 7 – Other Business: **Mr. Graeub** expressed concern regarding the cost of maintaining collapsible lane dividers because they tend to be knocked down by vehicles. He suggested paint striping as a solution.

Other announcements:

- Bike to Work Day –May 17 – new pit stop in Friendship Heights at Wisconsin Place.
- Council is considering a smoking ban at all bus stops and shelters.

Adjourn

Next meeting date: March 12, 2013